

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. RED SEA MANEUVERING: BRINGING SOMALIA ALONG

THE SUDANESE AMBASSADOR IN MOGADISCIO TOLD CHARGE JACOBS MARCH 31 THAT PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAIZ MEETING HAD BEEN A "MILESTONE" IN EFFORTS BY MODERATE ARAB STATES TO WEAN THE SOMALIS AWAY FROM THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD WOULD SOON VISIT MOGADISCIO, OSTENSIBLY TO DEDICATE A SAUDI-BUILT MOSQUE BUT IN FACT TO PURSUE NIMEIRI'S OPENING GAMBIT WITH SIAD BY OFFERING SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AID. THE AMBASSADOR URGED THE US TO ACT IN SUPPORT OF THE MODERATE ARAB DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE, BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST

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EXPECTATIONS OF OVERNIGHT CHANGES IN THE SOMALI ATTITUDE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: PRINCE SAUD'S VISIT, IF IT DOES COME OFF, COULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN SOMALIA'S MOVEMENT AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS. WE DOUBT THAT EITHER SIDE WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A VISIT UNLESS BOTH HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO MOVE TOGETHER IN A CONCRETE WAY, AND WE AGREE WITH THE SUDANESE THAT SOMALIA

IS MOVING STRONGLY IN A DIRECTION FAVORABLE TO US INTERESTS.

WE SHOULD BEGIN TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION  
TO BE RAISED AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL)  
MOGADISCIO 550, 3/31.)

## 2. PAKISTAN: WAR OF ATTRITION

EMBASSY ISLAMABAD REPORTS THAT BOTH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO  
AND THE OPPOSITION PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) NOW  
APPEAR TO BE DIGGING IN FOR A PROLONGED CONFRONTATION  
WHOSE ULTIMATE OUTCOME STILL CANNOT BE PREDICTED. BHUTTO  
SEEMS TO HAVE ADOPTED A STRATEGY OF WEARING DOWN THE PRO-  
TEST MOVEMENT OVER TIME WITH A CARROT-AND-STICK APPROACH  
IN WHICH HE:

--CONTINUES TO JAIL OPPOSITION LEADERS, MAKING CLEAR  
THAT HE WILL NOT COMPROMISE ON THE KEY ISSUE OF THEIR  
DEMAND FOR NEW ELECTIONS; BUT

--OFFERS VARIOUS INDUCEMENTS, INCLUDING MORE SEATS IN  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE LIFTING OF THE EMER-  
GENCY, IF THEY WILL DROP THEIR DEMAND.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES NEITHER SIDE IS WILLING TO COMPROMISE,  
AND REPORTS THAT THE OPPOSITION MUST NOW CHOOSE BETWEEN:

--CONTINUING ITS PROGRAM OF LOW-LEVEL CIVIL DIS-  
OBEDIENCE, HOPING THAT CIVIL UNREST WILL GROW AND  
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BHUTTO WILL BE FORCED OUT OF POWER; AND

--ESCALATING THE CONFRONTATION, INCREASING THE LEVEL  
OF VIOLENCE AND SEEKING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. (CON-  
FIDENTIAL) ISLAMABAD 3038, 3/30.)

## 3. GUATEMALA BRISTLES AT US REPORT ON BELIZE

THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT REACTED SHARPLY YESTERDAY TO A  
WIRE SERVICE REPORT OF TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNA-  
TIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD WAS  
PREPARED IN NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR TO ACCEPT AN INDEPEN-  
DENT BELIZE. THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS OFFICE ISSUED A STATE-  
MENT CATEGORICALLY REJECTING THE ALLEGATION, AND FOREIGN  
MINISTER OBIOLS REITERATED THAT GUATEMALA WILL NOT RECOG-  
NIZE OR TOLERATE THE UNILATERAL INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE.  
HE ADDED, "GUATEMALAN RIGHTS TO BELIZE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO  
DISCUSSION BY THE US CONGRESS." THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ASKED  
OUR EMBASSY TO CONFIRM THE REPORT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IF THE REPORT IS ACCURATE, WE WILL HAVE TO CONFIRM TO THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT THAT A USG REPRESENTATIVE REVEALED A SECRET GUATEMALAN NEGOTIATING POSITION TO CONGRESS. THIS EPISODE WILL OBVIOUSLY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF HARDLINERS WITHIN THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY AND RESTRICT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S FREEDOM TO MANEUVER. (CONFIDENTIAL) GUATEMALA 2005, 3/31.)  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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